

Anthony Reintzel Building
3258 M Street, N.W.
Georgetown
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-122

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

ANTHONY REINTZEL BUILDING

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Location: 3258 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. (Note: This part of M Street was formerly known as Bridge Street).

Present Owner: Daniel J. Leonard

Present Occupant: Unoccupied ground floor; apartments above.

Present Use: Storage and apartments.

Statement of Significance: This building represents an early (c. 1810) Georgetown waterfront area two-and-a-half-story shop and dwelling type remodelled and raised to three full stories c. 1870-80.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The following information is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which this structure was built. Reference is to the records found at the Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia. The site is part of Square 1200, old lot 43 later subdivided into lot 817 and finally lot 844.

1813 Deed December 16 1812 recorded June 15, 1813 in
Liber AE folio 501
Anthony Reintzel
To
Valentine Reintzel

1815 Deed June 10, 1815 recorded November 5, 1815 in
Liber AK folio 93
Valentine Reintzel
To
John Cox

1816 Deed July 11, 1816 recorded August 15, 1816 in
Liber AM, folio 57
John Cox
To
Joseph Brookes

1817 Deed February 22, 1817 recorded June 20, 1817 in
Liber AO folio 152
Joseph Brookes
To
John Pickrell

- 1817 Deed June 20, 1817 recorded December 16, 1817 in
Liber AP, folio 265
John Pickrell
To
Clement Smith
- 1831 Deed June 7, 1831 recorded August 16, 1831 in
Liber WB 37 folio 287
Clement Smith
To
Bernard Brien
- 1845 Trust October 3, 1845 recorded October 13, 1845 in
Liber WB 121 folio 147
Bernard Brien
To
Clement Cox, trustee
- 1871 Deed June 14, 1871 recorded June 15, 1871 in
Liber 649 folio 371
John B. Dixon
To
Robert H. Hunter
- 1882 Deed November 8, 1881 recorded January 4, 1882 in
Liber 989 folio 466
Robert H. Hunter et ux Mary
To
John Curtin
- 1898 Will of John Curtin devises all estate in fee to
wife Kate Curtin dated November 26, 1898.
- 1906 Deed October 2, 1906 recorded October 3, 1906 in
Liber 3026 folio 356
Katherine C. Curtin
To
Christian Heurich
- 1920 Deed March 29, 1920 recorded March 31, 1920 in
Liber 212 folio 151
Christian Heurich and wife Amelia L.
To
William H. Brewton
- 1920 Deed March 29, 1920 recorded March 31, 1920 in
Liber 212 folio 151
William H. Brewton
To
Louis P. Keyser and Christian Jacobsen
- 1920 Trust July 12, 1920 recorded July 13, 1920 in
Liber 215 folio 403
Louis P. Keyser and Christian Jacobson
To
Aaron Litvin and wife
- 1924 Deed April 11, 1924 recorded April 12, 1924 in
Liber 258 folio 77
Morris Litvin
To
Rebecca Litvin

1937 Deed November 15, 1937 recorded November 19, 1937 in
Liber 487 folio 297
Rebecca Litvin
To
M. F. Burns
1937 Deed November 15, 1937 recorded November 19, 1937
in Liber 487 folio 298
M. F. Burns
To
Gus Zampakos
1960 Deed June 24, 1960 recorded June 30, 1960 in
Liber 906 folio 696
Gus Zampakos
To
Daniel J. Leonard

HABS
DC
GEO
81-

2. Date of erection: Probably built between 1808 and 1812
(Commission of Fine Arts, file OG 65-346)
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: No building permits
for this address on record at the Building Permit Depart-
ment of the District of Columbia. Building was radically
altered c. 1870-80.
6. Important old views: None known.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

The owner of the entire lot 43 by 1813 was Valentine Reintzel, the Worshipful Master of the first Masonic Lodge in the District of Columbia organized in 1789. Valentine was also a member of the Common Council of the Corporation of Georgetown in 1791. Daniel Reintzel was Mayor of Georgetown on various occasions between 1796 and 1807.

Prepared by Dr. James Philip Noffsinger
Architect
National Park Service
August 15, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This comparatively simple structure is representative of an early nineteenth century commercial and residential type during Georgetown's maritime period, although only the Flemish bond brickwork of the facade and the evidence of a gable on the west wall give clues to its original form and appearance before extensive remodelling dating probably from c. 1870-80.
2. Condition of fabric: The structure, now vacant, is being allowed to deteriorate.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 24'-0" (three bays) x approximately 70' (including ell); three stories in height.
2. Foundations: Front (north) foundation of stone has been spot repaired with concrete. Foundation at back (south) exposed to approximately 15' below street grade, is of stone.
3. Wall construction: Red brick of Flemish bond on (north) facade has been painted dark red above lower cornice, salmon red below. Irregular sizes and bonding indicate repair work at undetermined date(s). Unpainted east wall is of common bond with headers every six courses. West wall clearly shows original gable line of two-and-a-half-story structure.
4. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys flush with east wall are approximately 2' x 3' in dimension. Chimneys are embellished by single projecting brick course below three course corbeling which ends 6" below top of chimney.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Six-paneled door under transom set within heavy chamfered wooden framing at west end of street (north) elevation dates from remodeling c. 1870-80. Double ten-paned shop doors are comparatively modern.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Large fixed single-paned shop window in heavy wooden frame and upper windows date from c. 1870-80. Upper windows have two-over-two-light double-hung wooden sash, stone sills, and brick

segmental arches with wooden infilling. Arches are concealed by pressed-tin hood moldings of simple geometric design. Pier between west and center windows is wider than that between center and east windows. No shutters.

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GEO
81-

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Roof slopes to the back (north to south). The covering is unknown, although tin flashing is visible.
- b. Framing: Unknown.
- c. Cornice, eaves: Strongly projecting tin cornice has modillions above paneled frieze and is visually supported by four brackets whose principal planes run at forty-five-degree angles to the facade. Two terminal brackets rise through capping element of cornice.

Subsidiary pressed-tin cornice spanning facade above first floor has cavetto frieze ornamented by rather abstract palmette motifs, undecorated cyma reversa molding, and broad capping fillet on the soffit of which are set small semi-circular ornaments. Two flanking console elements have rounded tops with single rosettes on their front surfaces. Both cornices date from c. 1870-80.

- d. Dormers: None.

- C. Technical Description of the Interiors: The recorder was unable to secure admission to the interiors of the building. Straight-flight wooden stairs parallel and adjoin the west wall. Space east of the stair hall is for retail functions on the street level and living on the second and third floors. Walls and ceiling of the stair hall are plastered above three-foot-high vertical board and bead wainscoting.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Anthony Reintzel building faces north on M Street, N.W. on the edge of a relatively shabby section of the Georgetown commercial district, which continues westward on M Street to the Key Bridge. One-half block north of the Chesapeake & Ohio canal and a few hundred yards from the Potomac River, its location was prime in the earlier days of the Port of Georgetown. A gradual shift in Georgetown's retail trade has left

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GEO
81-

the building in a generally neglected area, distant from the more vital commercial areas to the east on M Street and north on Wisconsin Avenue.

The immediate site of the structure was apparently once a small hill; level of the back yard is fully 15' below grade on M Street and is pit-like in character.

2. Enclosures: The general property lines of 3258 and 3264 M Street are defined by a stone wall and in some places, a wooden barrier.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: The building fronts on modern concrete public sidewalk to the north.
5. Landscaping: None.

Prepared by Thomas R. Martinson
Student Assistant Architect
National Park Service
August 18, 1966